

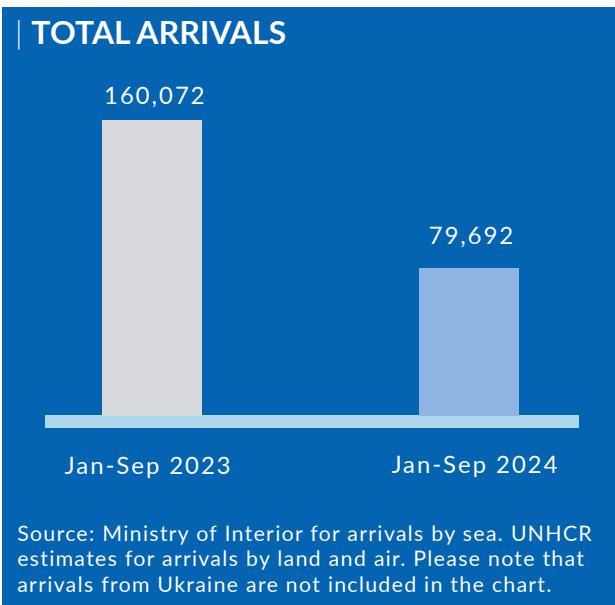
Italy

September 2024

In September, **7,685 refugees and migrants arrived in Italy by sea**. Most originated from the Syrian Arab Republic (27%), Bangladesh (22%), Tunisia and Egypt (7% each). **16 per cent were children**. Other people reached Italy via land and air.

On 18 September, **UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Confimprese** which aims to promote the inclusion of refugees within Confimprese member companies through the **Welcome Working for Refugee Integration** programme.

On 20 September, the first **high-level dialogue on protection with the Government of Italy** took place in Rome, including senior officials from the Ministry of Interior, and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Labour, and Health.



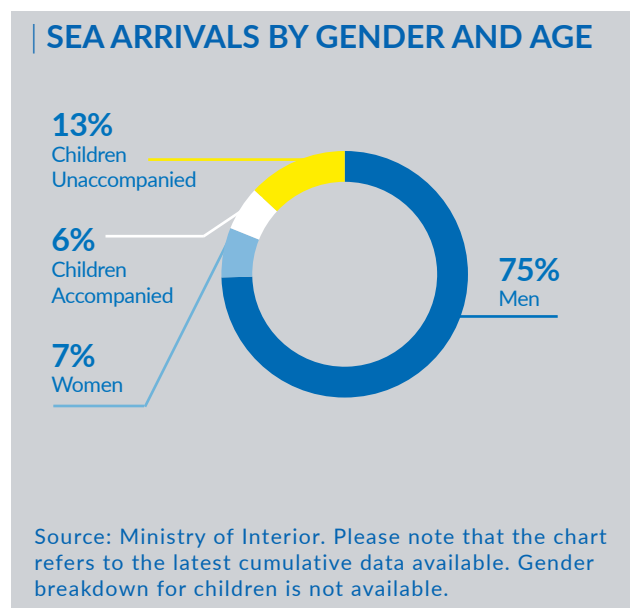
KEY FIGURES

49,691

People reached Italy by sea disembarking in different ports across the country in January-September 2024. 41,812 (84%) were informed about asylum procedures by UNHCR staff and partners following disembarkation. (Source: Ministry of Interior and UNHCR)

195,014

Temporary protection applications of people fleeing Ukraine as of beginning of September 2024. 70% of applicants are females. (Source: Civil Protection)





Arrivals

- **Access to territory (sea arrivals).** In September, **7,685 people reached the Italian shores** in 205 disembarkations, a 60 per cent decrease compared to the same month in 2023. Among arrivals, 16 per cent were children (21% in August). **Twenty-seven per cent originated from the Syrian Arab Republic** (22 % in August), followed by **22 per cent from Bangladesh** (16% in August) and **7 per cent from Tunisia** (18% in August). Other nationalities of people arriving by sea were Egyptians (7%), Pakistanis (5%), and Iranians, Algerians, Guineans, Afghans and Sudanese (3% each). In September, **more than two-third of sea crossings departed from Libya** (69%, 5,303 people), followed by 18 per cent from Tunisia (1,384 people), 10 per cent from Türkiye (740 people) and 3 per cent from Algeria (258 people). In September, **almost half of the people arriving by sea (55%, 4,194 people)** were disembarked in Italy **as a result of Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.**¹
- **Access to territory (land arrivals).** Around **800 people who reached Italy by land** were intercepted in September by the Border Police at Italy's northern borders with Slovenia, bringing the total estimated number of detected arrivals to 5,500 since the beginning of the year. Those arriving by land via south-eastern Europe mainly originated from **Bangladesh, Türkiye, the Syrian Arab Republic, Pakistan and Afghanistan**. Instances of ill-treatment by the Police along the Western Balkan route continued being reported. UNHCR staff conducted outreach activities informing arrivals on their rights and how to apply for international protection in Italy and collecting testimonies.



External engagement

- On 20 September, the **first high-level dialogue on protection with the Government of Italy (GoI)** took place in Rome, with the participation of the UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner for Protection (AHC-P) and the Regional Director for Europe. The dialogue focused on strengthening cooperation between UNHCR and the GoI, with a focus on the national implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, as well as on integration and safe pathways programmes. The dialogue was opened by the Head of Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration of the Ministry of Interior (Mol)'s, Prefect Laura Lega, while participants from the GoI included senior officials from the Mol, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Justice, Labour and Health. During her visit to Italy, the AHC-P held a meeting with SAR non-governmental organizations (NGOs), development cooperation NGOs and also partner organisations to discuss key protection issues in Italy.



First Protection Dialogue organized between UNHCR and the Government of Italy © UNHCR



Resettlement and complementary pathways

- Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in December 2023 between the Mol, the MFA, UNHCR MCO Italy and several Italian civil society organizations (CSOs), for the evacuation of 1,500 people from Libya, **20 people arrived on 2 September**, bringing the total number of people evacuated in 2024 to 355 so far.

¹ For further information on sea arrivals in Italy, please refer to the [Italy page](#) of the UNHCR data portal.

² Data source: [Missing Migrants project of the International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#).

³ See also, [UNHCR: Soddifazione per il Primo Dialogo sulla Protezione di richiedenti asilo e rifugiati](#), 20 September 2024.

- On 23 September, UNHCR Multi-Country Office (MCO) for Italy, the Holy See, and San Marino, alongside CSOs and other stakeholders, participated in a **meeting convened by the GoI to discuss changes foreseen to the legislation regulating labour mobility to Italy**, including the refugee quota. UNHCR proposed maintaining the refugee quota with modifications, such as eliminating the entry quota for seasonal work, and removing limitations on labour sectors, currently restricted to nine. Additionally, UNHCR suggested that access to the refugee quota be reserved for companies that formalize written agreements with UNHCR.

Integration

- To expand its partnerships and bolster support for social inclusion while equipping Italian companies with valuable professional skills, the UNHCR MCO Italy signed a **MoU with Confimprese** on 18 September. The partnership represents a cornerstone of the **UNHCR Welcome Working for Refugee Integration** programme, aiming to integrate refugees into member companies. Confimprese, the sole trade association in this initiative, collaborates with the Ministry of Labour, Confindustria, Global Compact, and Aidp, representing over 450 brands, 90,000 points of sale, and 800,000 employees. The agreement is strategically designed to address staff shortages in the retail sector by fostering refugee inclusion through targeted recruitment and integration programmes. Additionally, it aims to strengthen the social fabric by promoting diversity and inclusion.
- On 26 September, UNHCR MCO Italy and *Rete Universitaria Italiana per l'Apprendimento Permanente* (RUIAP) co-organized a workshop at LUMSA University in Rome on the '**Manifesto for an Inclusive University**' a framework designed to facilitate refugees' access to higher education and foster their social integration within academic life. The event, titled '**Il Manifesto dell'Università Inclusiva: tra ricerca sociale e servizi per l'apprendimento permanente**', featured a presentation of the 2023



Signature of the MoU between the UNHCR Representative and Confimprese President © UNHCR

Child protection

- As part of UNHCR's strategy to scale up its efforts to improve reception and protection services for unaccompanied children (UAC) in Italy, the UNHCR MCO Italy, together with the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration, signed an agreement on 23 September to secure funding of approximately 3 million euros, to support the project '**Enhancing Reception and Protection Services for Unaccompanied Children in Italy**' over a three-year period from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2027. The project aims to create a protective environment for UAC in transit facilities and to strengthen the overall protection system for vulnerable children throughout Italy. Additionally, the Swiss Embassy in Rome hosted a formal signing ceremony to mark the strategic partnership, in the presence of the UNHCR Representative.

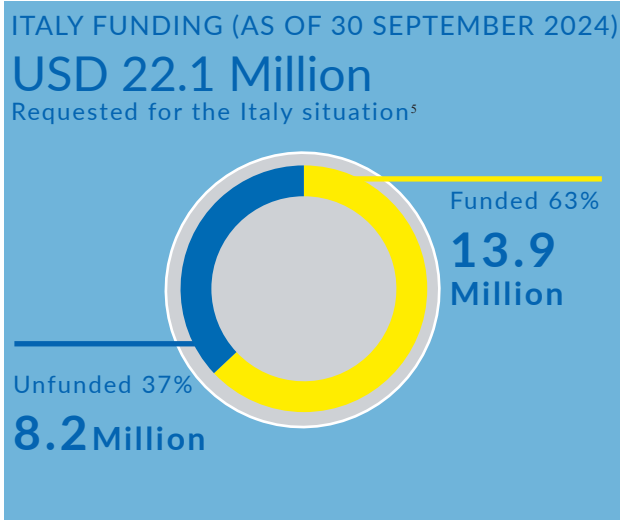
Partnerships

- To promote access to services for refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons in Italy, and in line with similar initiatives already implemented in Milan, Turin, Florence, Trieste and Catanzaro, the UNHCR MCO Italy Representative, together with the Head of the Private Sector Partnership in Italy, participated in the opening event of the '**Days of sight**' in Palermo, Sicily, on 10 September. Organised by the **OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation**, the event included an eye clinic and an optical laboratory where vulnerable people and refugees received free eye exams from a team of ophthalmologists.

⁴ See also, [UNHCR – Confimprese firmato protocollo d'intesa](#), 18 September 2024.



Financial information



UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided to the UNHCR MCO Italy in September, including for earmarked, softly earmarked, unearmarked and tightly earmarked contributions.⁶



Fundraising

- In September, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation / Directorate General for Development Cooperation contributed to strengthening UNHCR's efforts to provide comprehensive assistance to those in need. They generously allocated **3 million euros** in support of UNHCR's humanitarian activities in Niger in the context of the project titled '**Supporting refugees and asylum seekers in Maradi and Tahoua: strengthening resilience and delivering multisectoral aid**' and **1 million euros** in support of UNHCR's humanitarian assistance activities in Jordan, in the framework of the project '**Support to UNHCR cash assistance programme in urban areas in Jordan**'.
- UNHCR MCO Italy is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals. In September, it raised **3.1 million euros from private donors in Italy**, and among them, it extends its gratitude to Intesa Sanpaolo for their contribution.

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LINKS [UNHCR data portal](#) - [UNHCR Italy](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Facebook](#) - [LinkedIn](#) - [Global Focus](#)

⁵ Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund priorities activities. The funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the country. The contributions earmarked for Italy MCO shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to indirect support costs and carry-over.

⁶ Softly earmarked contributions allow UNHCR to use them across the range of countries, activities or themes in a given region or situation in accordance with identified priorities; softly earmarked contributions can potentially be used for the Italy operation due to their earmarking to a related situation or theme, or to the region or sub-region. Donors of unearmarked contributions of USD 10 million or more are: Sweden, Norway, España con ACNUR, Denmark, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), France, Japan for UNHCR, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Germany, Private donors in the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Private donors in Italy, Belgium, Ireland, Private donors in the Netherland, Australia, Sweden for UNHCR.